

**STATE AIDS TASK FORCE MEETING
OCTOBER 28, 2008**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Reynolds, Disease Investigation and Intervention Specialist II, Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD), Chairperson,
Assemblyman David Parks, Nevada Assembly, Clark County, Vice-Chair
Mary Ellen Harrell, RN, SNHD
Marcie Jackson, Deputy Director, Southern Nevada Area Health Education Center, (AHEC)
Antiocho Carrillo, Department Director, Community Counseling Center
Gary Vrooman, Ryan White Council, Southern Nevada
Larry Mastropierro, Member at Large of Business Community/Public
Lindsey Lightfoot, Social Services Director, Northern Nevada HOPES
Henedina Tollerstad, Member at Large of Highly Impacted Group/Public
Rita Boyd, Retired Nurse
Echezona Ezeanolue, MD alternate for Dr. Mary Guinan

NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION STAFF PRESENT

Mary Pennington, Communicable Disease Program Manager, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness (BCFCW)
Nikki Isaacs, Ryan White Part B Coordinator, BCFCW
Steve Dion, Ryan White Part B Health Program Specialist, BCFCW
Robert C. Salcido, HIV Surveillance Coordinator, Bureau of Health Planning, Statistics and Emergency Services (BHPSES)
Sandi Noffsinger, HIV Surveillance Health Resource Analyst, BHPSES
Julia Spaulding, STD Program Coordinator, BHPSES
Maria Canfield, Health Bureau Chief 2, BCFCW
April Romo, Administrative Assistant 3, BCFCW
Ellen Hall, Administrative Assistant 1, BCFCW

OTHERS PRESENT

Miguel Forero, Disease Control Specialist, Department of Corrections
Eddie Reynoso, Northern Nevada HOPES, ReNO AIDS Task Force
Bill Fuellenbach, Acting Executive Director, Northern Nevada HOPES
Jennifer Stoll-Hadayia, Washoe County Health District (WCHD)
Linda Anderson, Deputy Attorney General (DAG)
Jeff Vollman, Ryan White Part A Coordinator, Clark County Social Services, (CCSS)
Rick Reich, AIDS Coordinator, SNHD
Tim Conroy, Chief Executive Officer/President, FOCUS
Gary Schroeder, MD, University Medical Center, (UMC) Wellness Center

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Chris Reynolds called to order the State AIDS Task Force meeting at **10:05 AM**. It was video and teleconferenced from the Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness (BCFCW), Carson City, Southern Nevada Area Health Education Center (SNAHEC), Las Vegas, and Northern Nevada HOPES, Reno. This was a public meeting and the public was invited to make comments. In accordance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law, this meeting was posted at the following locations: Nevada State Health Division (NSHD), Carson City; Nevada State Library and Archives, Carson City; Northern Nevada HOPES, Reno; Washoe County Health District

(WCHD), Reno; Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD), Las Vegas; SNAHEC, Las Vegas; Elko County Library, Elko; and on the NSHD website at www.health.nv.gov.

The attendees introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 18, 2008 MEETING

Larry Mastropierro made a motion to approve the minutes. Lindsey Lightfoot seconded the motion. **MOTION APPROVED**

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION FOR WORLD AIDS DAY ACTIVITIES

Mr. Reynolds advised World AIDS Day is Monday, December 1st and rapid testing will be offered at SNHD, Gay and Lesbian Center (GLC) and the University of Las Vegas (UNLV). Also, on December 6th, rapid testing will be offered for the African/American population. Jennifer Stoll-Hadayia stated WCHD had a ten day calendar of events planned including testing and national guest speakers to talk about their experience. Also, the Women Symposium will be held December 1st. Ms. Stoll-Hadayia will email the group the events calendar. Julia Spaulding read the planned events. Dr. Echezona Ezeanolue asked if there were any activities/events planned for Southern Nevada. Dr. Gary Schroeder stated the University Medical Center (UMC) Wellness Center will be hosting an open house from 4-7pm. Mr. Reynolds and Ms. Spaulding volunteered to be the contact persons for information and will prepare a press release of events for the Southern and Northern Nevada regions.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2009 LEGISLATION AND BILL DRAFTS REQUESTS (BDRs)

Ms. Stoll-Hadayia announced the four Bill Drafts Requests (BDRs) recommended by the ADHOC subcommittee: 1. Rapid HIV testing, 2. Partner Delivered Therapy (PDT), 3. HIV testing in jail settings and 4. Universal HIV testing. The suggested BDRs need further investigation into the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) or the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). Both are recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In addition, to mandate HIV testing in jails and urge the Gold Standard be used with Universal HIV testing. Assemblyman David Parks stated we should proceed forward, by combining the recommendations into one or two BDRs and have LCB legal/research and provide further analysis. Rick Reich suggested looking at what the financial impact will be and recommended a fifth BDR for consideration to revise the NRS regarding Syphilis testing to include testing in the first trimester, which is also recommended by CDC. Assemblyman Parks made a motion to move forward with the five BDR proposals. Ms. Lightfoot seconded the motion. **MOTION APPROVED**

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CHANGES IN AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ADAP)

Nikki Isaacs said with the raise of pharmaceutical costs; the increased case load; the inflation rate in insurance premiums and the continued growth rate in Nevada, ask the Task Force members for recommendations on how to provide ADAP support services for those in need, in conjunction with paying the medication bills. Dr. Isaacs suggested the following choices for discussion: lowering the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) from 400%, requiring citizenship or social security cards for applicants, limiting support services but not implementing a cap or restrictions. Ms. Lightfoot understood Part B's program is 200% or below the FPL and recommends lowering the FPL guideline. Dr. Schroeder strongly disagreed.

Dr. Isaacs advised she received from Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) technical assistance data to review the National trends regarding Part B eligibility. Bill

Fuellenbach asked if there were any projections on how much and what percentage would be over if nothing is done. Dr. Isaacs noted that it is unknown at this time if there will be a budget cut in the state general funds for ADAP. With that said it is probably that with the combination of things in their toolkit and new rebates available ADAP should be okay through the fiscal year of April 2009. Dr. Isaacs encouraged everyone to talk with their constituents and coworkers on this topic due to the hard decisions expected to be discussed in the near future. Further discussion held resulted with Dr. Isaacs offering to create a survey monkey to send Task Force member's for feedback and address any additional questions or concerns on possible cuts to support services. Mr. Reynolds asked to enter into the record that the SATF does not endorse lowering the FPL or requiring social security cards that would impact undocumented patients. The SATF understood that this would require the potential of cutting support services.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE CHANGES TO STATE AIDS TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Reynolds opened the discussion saying not having a quorum present for the State AIDS Task Force quarterly meetings is a concern even with them being video and teleconferenced and there are two vacant Ex-Officio positions available. He read the bylaws stating if members who are absent from two consecutive meetings, and who do not notify the Chairman or Secretary in advance of their expected absence or send an alternate, shall be terminated from the Task Force. Dr. Mary Guinan had resigned and requested Dr. Ezeanolue fill her position. Bob Salcido suggested sending a courtesy letter to absent members to ask if they are still interested prior to removal and if not, request their recommendations for membership replacement. Linda Anderson suggested part of the letter context could state under the bylaws you are no longer a member; however we invite you to express interest and participate in the future. Mr. Mastropierro requested the letter include if member will not be able to attend meetings, this would be considered their resignation.

PRESENTATION ON CONGENITAL SYPHILIS

Mr. Reich gave a brief update on Congenital Syphilis which is still within the infection pool of source cases usually identified during prenatal, during delivery or named as the contact during pregnancy. In 2003, CDC established an algorithm to identify children who meet the definition. In 2006, SNHD identified 11 presumption cases and investigated 14 other cases which did not meet the criteria. In 2007 there was a decrease to 8 presumption cases with 30 not meeting the criteria. This year so far, 11 presumption cases had been identified with 25 cases not meeting the criteria. SNHD had reviewed over 2000 positive serologies in Clark County which 35% required investigation.

PRESENTATION ON FOCUS AGENCY IN SOUTHERN NEVADA

Tim Conroy presented on Finding Our Clients Useful Solutions (FOCUS) agency located in Las Vegas. The original goal was to help other agencies come together providing a one stop shopping network. On November 2, 2008, a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at the new home owned by the Metropolitan Community Church, opening in December 2008. In addition, we will be providing one to two hot meals a week with the goal of increasing to seven meals a week in the spring. Currently, there is no HIV hot lunch program offered for these clients. Based on client's survey results, FOCUS will add other services per month such as; a weekly bag containing a personal hygiene, second week, a paper product, third week, a cleaning solution and the fourth week, a bulk food item. The agency is authorized to offer Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) maintenance for clients with pets. Mr. Conroy stated with pending grants and fundraising events; other programs may also be offered. FOCUS purpose is to help all clients in Southern Nevada address their needs and have immediate emergencies taken care of while looking into long term solutions for the problems.

PRESENTATION ON RENO AIDS TASK FORCE

Eddie Reynoso gave a description of the ReNO AIDS task force's group which consists of business, community and faith leader's volunteers working to raise funds, awareness, education and activism for HIV services in Nevada. The fundraising is currently under the umbrella of "A Rainbow Place" and are in the process of obtaining a 501 c3. The ReNO AIDS task force is targeting the youth market.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE QUALITY MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE (QMS)

Mr. Fuellenbach stated the Quality Management Subcommittee (QMS) met for two days to discuss the HRSA required 2009 State Comprehensive Service Needs Plan. The meeting was facilitated by Rota Rosachi, Executive Director, Nevada Public Health Foundation who helped identify the following objectives: to develop a Telemedicine System to increase access to care and reduce our cost; the normalization of HIV testing providing education to medical providers on the rationale of routine HIV testing; the need for rapid testing and to develop quality measurements. The deadline for the plan completion is February 2009. Dr. Isaacs stated HRSA requires the document and the Ryan White Part B will split the cost with Part A. Mr. Harold Phillips, Branch Chief, HRSA is the consultant for this project and will write the plan by January 2009.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS ON RYAN WHITE DRAFT POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Dr. Isaacs advised she is drafting a new Ryan White Part B policy and procedure manual to replace the current one created in 2002. The new manual will include updated information; the addition of a Pharmacy Budget Manager (PBM), a State Pharmacy Assistance Program (SPAP) which was created through legislation. There have been several changes which caused a domino effect on the way patients are provided services. In conclusion, the Ryan White Program is in the final stages of receiving technical assistance on eligibility due November 7th and will disseminate the draft to Task Force members to review and make comments at the next scheduled meeting. A HRSA consultant on eligibility will be present at the next task force meeting for a presentation.

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Reynolds asked April Romo to email members the tentative dates in January to choose for the next meeting. Suggestions made for the next agenda is an update on membership interest and commitment, update on the Ryan White procedure manual, presentation on Sin Sity Sisters Program, discuss pharmaceutical issues and update on the Legislation session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Mastropierro announced the 19th Annual AIDS benefit will be held on Saturday, November 22nd at the Holiday Inn to raise funds for the residence program. Also, he suggested looking into possibly combining collaboration and services to provide client coverage and reduce the administration costs.

Mr. Reynolds said effective November 3rd, the GLC will be open two days a week from 1:00 – 6:00 PM and the SNHD continues their outreach efforts.

Mr. Salcido advised the Hepatitis Southwest Conference will be held in Las Vegas on November 13th and 14th. Screening and vaccinations will be available at a reduced fee of \$75.00 for local residents and \$150.00 for non residents.

The meeting adjourned at **12:10 PM**.